The Southern PATRIOT

Vol. 14. No. 5 Published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. May, 1956

N. O. PSYCHIATRISTS CITE BENEFITS OF INTEGRATION

"When I hear a person speak of being contaminated, made unclean or racially inferior by another person of another race or religion, I am immediately reminded of the paranoid schizophrenic who, in a similar fashion, fears poisonous gases and being influenced by outside 'forces.'

"We currently see people en masse retaliating against one woman, just as the paranoid schiozphrenic lashes out against his 'persecutors'. We currently see representatives of the people saying that they are discriminated against by the federal government and taking measures to 'protect' themselves. Taken collectively these items sound quite a bit like the delusions of some of my patients."

This was the comment made by one of the phychiatrists and neurologists in the New Orleans area in response to a poll on school integration.

The poll was sponsored by the Medical Advisory Committee of the SCEF in cooperation with a committee of the New Orleans Medical Association.

Pro-segregationists have contended that mixing of children in public schools would have harmful emotional effect on both races. The survey of specialists hardly bears out this claim.

Fifty-six questionnaires were mailed, and 22 replies received. A very high rate of return. The key question asked was:

"From a professional point of view, how would you characterize the psychiatric effect of racially integrated schools on white and Negro children?"

Eighteen doctors — 82 per cent of those replying — thought integration would either be beneficial or would have little effect. Eleven declared it beneficial; of the seven believing it of little effect, three qualified their answers with "in the long run.")

Four considered there were harmful possibilities in the ending of segregation. Two thought both races would suffer; one believed that whites would be harmed while Negroes would benefit.)

This expression of opinion by practitioners in a Deep South city should be a firm counter to those who are desperately searching for statistics to buttress "separate but equal" educational systems. Indeed, the observations several of the doctors appended to their ballots give the segregationists no "out."

There can be no faulting this analysis of racial discrimination submitted by a young, Louisiana-born doctor:

"There can be little question of the detrimental effect on the psychic development of any discriminated-against group, by a system which teaches them that they are inferior, but which requires them to compete for the necessities and niceties of life on an equal economic level. The results, in decreased contentment, undeveloped potential, and the fostering of resentments and hostility likely to be acted out against the frustrating community, should be obvious.

"The phychic effect on master groups is equally, but more subtly, detrimental.

THE LESSER EVIL

"With desegregation some Negro children will probably feel discrimination in more personally-directed and immediately painful forms than in their previous all-Negro schools. But at least this form of trauma is more accessible therapeutically than the chronic indirect hurt to personality of legally sanctioned exclusion and restriction.

"As the choice of the lesser evil it seems preferable from the mental-health standpoint, for some Negro children to suffer the transitional and current psychological hardships of desegregation which are relatively more recognizable and correctable, than to experience the more insidious and less treatable lifelong psychic damage from segregation."

DR. VIOLA W. BERNARD in a report to the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

This is a quite complex subject, but since there are no demonstrable biological differences between races on any significant level, there can be no advantage for a group to grow up with the belief, totally false, that they are significantly different and better, and thus entitled to greater privilege and more of the world's goods. This does not produce mature people."

Another envisaged the emotional transition that will take place with the coming of integration:

"Initially there is likely to be some reserve and suspiciousness on the part of both races. Especially in the upper grades the children will at first try to remain separate and associate only with their own color. Some, inflamed by their elders, may become involved in fighting.

"Gradually it can be expected that the children will cease to see only color but will recognize individual differences in the other. In the give and take of daily work, they will come to accept the individuals of the other race according to each one's worth as a student and a human being. The ultimate effect will be a lessening of irrational prejudice generally. The over-all effect on mental health should be salutory. The Negro children will live with less fear, envy and suppressed hostility toward whites. In turn the white children will have less irrational fear of Negroes and less guilt feelings toward them."

Among those medical men who thought that integration would have little effect "in the long run," the reservations expressed were largely based on their doubts about adult behavior in the situation. Said one:

"Under different conditions—for example, if there was much less irrational prejudice among white people, so that integration could take place without the white children's parents' influence—then I would believe it would be beneficial to both white and Negro children."

A second doctor phrased the point this way:

"There will be negative and positive aspects to both races, but the eventual effect will be minimal in a long-range view. It will be another factor of socialization, like so many others that a child encounters. How it, or others, affects him is determined by many factors, including his mental set via his parents."

A doctor who considered that integration would be harmful to both races qualified his answer by adding "under present setting." And his comment was: "I favor a gradual integration beginning first with kindergarten and in 13 years integration would be complete. A sudden, cataclysmic change can only lead to disaster!"

The respondant who believed that Negroes would benefit and whites lose, added this comment: "Probable lessening of health standards or levels for white race."

Perhaps the finest response the poll elicited was the courageous testament of democratic belief by Dr. L. Martial Bou-

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'Fears of Psychiatric Difficulties Are, to My View, Unfounded'

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dreaux. In a letter which we regret lacking space to print in full, he declared:

"First, I refrain from answering via an unsigned questionnaire because it is my conviction that if we do live in a free democratic society, we should express our views, even if they be unpopular, without hesitation, if this freedom of speech and conscience is done in the framework of our Constitutional democracy.

"Secondly, in proceeding further, I am fully aware that this questionnaire is sent out, at least partially, under the auspices of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. If my memory serves me correctly, this organization was a while back scrutinized by a U.S. Senate investigational committee. It seems they were looking for un-Constitutional influences operating within or allied to said organization.

"From all I can gather to the present, that committee . . . did not prove the existence of these looked-for influences. So, as another matter of sincere conviction, I hold to the democratic principle that men are innocent until charges are properly proven. But it has come to pass that men, of otherwise honest intent, hesitate to express themselves because of the phobic fear in the present times that one is guilty of un-Constitutional action by merely exercising unfearfully his freedom of speech and conscience, and more guilty if he does so to, with, or for any organization that has had the shadow of unfounded suspicion cast upon it . . . . These as well as other factors are germane, also, to the emotionalism attendant upon the racial questions of today.

"So to other matters. The fears that any mixture of the races will lead to increases of disease, significant lowering of intelligence, or psychiatric difficulties in either race, to my view are unfounded. These seem to be rationalizations to show just cause why the status quo should be maintained, and to seem to give a scientific medical basis for views which otherwise would have to be faced as being personal, biased, undemocratic and un-Christian. Rationalizations of this sort also attempt to remove the cause for such views as racial prejudice from the individual to a larger external scientific and social causation.

"These methods of rationalization are common in history. They, in one form or another, have been used to give a pseudo-logical or scientific front for action that has motivations other than the stated ones. Hitler used them effectively in Germany, except the prejudice was primarily against the Jew rather than the American Negro. Perhaps it is forgotten that one of the reasons we fought so hard in World War II was to assert that racial intolerances were not compatible with freedom and democracy."

Public Health Specialists Name Real Villain: Discrimination

The presumed "health menace" of school integration is a major theme in white supremacist propaganda. The New Orleans school board mustered statistics on venereal diseases in its vain attempt to defend segregation in federal court. Citizens Council spokesmen spare no adjectives in portraying the horrors of degredation and plague which an end to segregation would bring.

The SCEF, in association with its Medical Advisory Committee, has sent inquiries to public-health officials and other appropriate medical specialists, both in the South and over the nation in the effort to gain authoritative opinion on this issue. The basic question asked was:

"From the standpoint of the total health of the pupils and the community, would you say that a change from a policy of racially segregated schools to integrated schools would probably be:

A. Beneficial, B. Dangerous, C. Of little or no effect."

From a faculty member of the University of Arkansas medical school came this comment: "Beneficial to both, as it would help remove from the colored children's minds the feeling that they are inferior and from the white children's that lack of a pigmented skin alone entitles them to the best in this world . . . . They are not mixed in the schools here but at the University Hospital they are mixed in the children's ward. We have very occasionally had a little trouble with parents. The children have done beautifully. Occasionally a white child from the northern part of the state where there are no Negroes is afraid of the Negro children at first."

The health officer of a large Alabama city thought the effect of integration would be beneficial to Negroes, harmful to whites. He observed: "Illegitimacy is socially acceptable to most Negro groups (one birth in four to five, locally) and becomes a problem at the high-school age. Intermingling of races at the high school level may conceivably increase promiscuity among the white. The extent to which this might happen is any person's guess. Paradoxically, syphilis should not be a problem, for it is rapidly disappearing in both races, even among unwed Negro mothers."

Dr. C. Herbert Marshall, distinguished physician in Washington, D.C., who is an SCEF board member, also commented on the venereal disease aspect: "Control has advanced to a level where it is no longer the menace of a decade ago. Because of low income, many Negroes are forced to go to clinics where records are kept and made public."

Viewing the progress of integration in the District of Columbia, he observed, "Community is improved generally. Children are happier and more at ease. Fear is rapidly disappearing and would have vanished completely were it not for old "die-hards."

From another integrated city, St. Louis, Dr. Park J. White, a pediatrician who has given 35 years of outstanding service to public-health groups, said: "Child health, particularly in the South, where so much domestic work is done by Negroes, cannot be segregated. And it **can be purchased**—meaning that whatever improves the economic status of the lowest economic group (i.e., the Negroes) will improve the health of all groups. This is an old and well-known truism in public health.

"With regard to school contacts, whether with teachers or pupils, if the school hygiene program of observation and examination of children is well and conscientiously conducted, as it has been in recent years in St. Louis under Dr. Lloyd Tate, integration should have no appreciable effect upon the children's health. So far, it certainly has not.

"If it should so happen that in some communities the school hygiene programs should be separate but unequal—i.e., inadequate as far as Negro children are concerned—then one of the very first things to accompany integration would be a demand on the part of parents of both groups for the right sort of health care for all children. And this is why I checked 'Beneficial,' rather than 'Of little or no effect.' Dangerous is, of course, absurd."

Dr. Alfred Yankauer, director of the bureau of maternal and child health for the state of New York, also stressed the economic aspects behind any legitimate concern the community might have with the welfare of its children. He dismissed segregationist arguments as

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EASTLAND STRIKES AGAIN--AND AGAIN IS CENSURED

In March, 1954, Senator Eastland of Mississippi launched his career as a witch-hunter with a solo raid into New Orleans designed to destroy the SCEF. He was outstandingly unsuccessful.

Last month Eastland returned to the Crescent City, reinforced by colleagues Jenner and Watkins. Neither his manners nor his method had improved; his motives were as dubious as ever.

Presumably the Senator sought to establish the existence of a "professional branch of the Communist Party in Louisiana." The big bit of evidence offered to the headline-writers was a batch of books and documents allegedly taken from the former living quarters of a Negro waiter. None of it was shown to have any connection with the eight witnesses put "on trial."

None of the proceedings served any purpose except to provide segregationist groups with a weapon to intimidate the city's growing forces of decency. During the week of publicity build-up preceding the hearings Leander Perez and other Dixiecrats issued public demands that NAACP and SCEF officials be subpoenaed.

The witnesses called were private citizens in ordinary occupations, whose personal beliefs should reasonably remain private. All of them asserted their constitutional right to this privacy. One, Mrs. Pauline Feuer, a social worker with a distinguished record of service in civic organizations, defied the inquisitors in a stirring, memorable manner.

She declared at various points in her testimony:

"I will not be accused." . . . "If I am guilty of a crime, I wish to be tried by a court of the United States."

"I am not a Communist . . .I did not attend meetings . . . I am a widow with two small children and I am responsible for their well being. If you so blacken my name that I can't obtain employment, it will be on your conscience; mine is clear.

"I am not a Communist and will not be impugned—I am not answering. I want no tag of dodging put on me. I refuse to answer on the First Amendment, the Ninth Amendment and the Bill of Rights.

"Do you know what a thing like this does to a family? Consider my family, have respect for the American family. . . . I think you gentlemen have insight, and I know you know the difference between the integrity of a mother and social worker and that of a politician."

Mrs. Feuer faces the threat of contempt proceedings.

As the two-day hearing drew to a close, Eastland, made a typically arrogant gesture. He offered counsel for the "defendants" an opportunity to make statements, presumably for the purpose of clearing themselves of guilt by association with their clients.

When he called upon Philip Wittenberg, the well-known New York attorney who represented five of the witnesses, Wittenberg replied: "I have nothing to explain and nothing to apologize for. I have tremendous respect for the Supreme Court and advise my clients to rely on its rulings. You may wish, Senator Eastland, to apologize for your views on the Supreme Court. As a good American I have no apologies to make."

This was all the excuse Eastland needed to stage a headline-grabbing, brass-knuckles finish. He immediately ordered deputies to eject Wittenberg, and when the husband of one of the witnesses sought to assist the lawyer in the mauling he was receiving, he was thrown out, too.

Wittenberg, who was required to get hospital treatment, declared: "Such sheer sadism as evidenced throughout this hearing could only be climaxed by a wanton display of force. The Senator would not dare perpetrate such an outrage elsewhere. His motive is not legislative but personally political."

And Eastland drew further censure from the Louisiana Civil Liberties Union, a recently formed chapter of the ACLU. The organization criticized the apparent illegal search and seizure that marked the subcommittee's obtaining of the waiter's papers, then said:

"Further, the LCLU believes that the hearings . . . . although perhaps not technically violative of civil rights, are typical of the abuses to which the investigatory powers of Congress have recently been subjected by the committee concerned with internal security.

"They include abusive, discourteous and antagonistic attitudes of the committee members toward witnesses and lawyers, the forcible ejection of an attorney from the hearing room without any prior warning, order or reprimand; the reception in evidence of hearsay in the form of documents not properly identified; the general conduct of the hearing in the atmosphere of a public spectacle rather than as a quasi-judicial proceeding, exemplified by the chairman's continued smoking under a No Smoking sign in the United States district courtroom."

Would you like your children to have the privilege of attending an interracial camp in the deep south? Such camps are rare; however, we can get you information about one. It is for boys and girls 8 - 12 years; limited to 30 campers, A.C.A. accredited.

June 18 - July 15, First Period;
July 16 - August 12, Second Period;
Rates, $120.00 per period; $210.00 for two periods.

For further information, write S.C.E.F., 822 Perdido Street, New Orleans, La.

High Cost of Integrity in the South

In the atmosphere of uncertainty and fear generated throughout the South by irreconcilable racists, many a decent person has been deprived of livelihood for defending the Supreme Court desegregation decisions. Few have been more talented and more courageous than Robert D. Barnes, formerly editor of the weekly bulletin of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.

On March 29, Barnes made the following statement to the press:

"Today I was fired as editor of the Chamber of Commerce News Bulletin. This weekly newspaper, under my editorship, has won national recognition for editorial excellence; articles appearing in it have been reprinted in dozens of publications throughout the country—including official publications of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

"I was dismissed because of my opposition to segregation, because of my membership on the board of directors of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, and because of my association with Dr. James Dombrowski, director of the SCEF.

"The educational fund and Dr. Dombrowski have been investigated repeatedly, and just as often cleared of any evidence of wrongdoing. The goal of the organization is simply to implement the Supreme Court's ruling against segregation.

"This dismissal is a blow at the basic right of every individual to think for himself—an effort to intimidate those who sincerely believe that the days of segregation and discrimination are numbered.

"I, for one, will not be intimidated, and there are many others like me throughout the South."

C of C officials declined to comment. But SCEF president Aubrey Williams scored off the implications of the action in an open letter to them:

"We find it difficult to believe that the Chamber of Commerce would demand that its employees, as a condition of employment, agree to conform, even when off duty, to the official Chamber of Commerce line on moral, social and political issues. . . .

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